

Sub A2

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An exhaust gas purifying apparatus of an internal combustion engine is provided which includes: exhaust gas purifying means, provided in an exhaust passage of the engine, for adsorbing NOx in an exhaust gas when the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust gas is lean, and releasing or reducing the adsorbed NOx when the oxygen concentration of the exhaust gas is reduced; a light-off catalyst provided upstream of the exhaust gas purifying means in the exhaust passage, and having a lower O₂ storage ability than the exhaust gas purifying means; and control means for controlling the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust gas so that an atmosphere having a reduced oxygen concentration is produced around the exhaust gas purifying means when the NOx conversion efficiency of the exhaust gas purifying means is decreased.

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